

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A data management method for managing original data, ~~and first derivative data by relating the original data and the derivative data, the derivative data being~~ which is generated through editing processing on the original data, and second derivative data which is generated through editing processing on the first derivative data, by relating the original data, the first derivative data, and the second derivative data, the data management method comprising the steps of:

generating first link information for linking the original data and the first derivative data and first editing information representing the content of the editing processing on the original data; and

attaching the first link information and the first editing information to the original data and the first derivative data as first accompanying information thereof;

generating second link information for linking the first derivative data and the second derivative data and second editing information representing the content of the editing processing on the first derivative data; and

attaching the second link information and the second editing information to the first derivative data and the second derivative data as second accompanying information thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A data management apparatus for managing original data, ~~and first derivative data by relating the original data and the derivative data, the derivative data being~~ which is generated through editing processing on the original data, and second derivative data which is generated through editing processing on the first derivative data, by relating the original data, the first derivative data, and the second derivative data, the data management apparatus comprising:

~~accompanying first link~~ information generation means for generating ~~accompanying information comprising first link information for linking the original data and the first derivative data and first editing information representing the content of the editing processing on the original data; and~~

~~accompanying first~~ information attaching means for attaching the ~~accompanying first link~~ ~~information generated by the accompanying information generation means~~ and the first editing information to the original data and the first derivative data as first accompanying information;

second link information generation means for linking the first derivative data and the second derivative data and second editing information representing the content of the editing processing on the first derivative data; and

second information attaching means for attaching the second link information and the second editing information to the first derivative data and the second derivative data as second accompanying information thereof.

Claim 3 (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium storing thereon a program for causing a computer to execute steps of managing original data, ~~and first derivative data by relating the original data and the derivative data, the derivative data being which is~~ generated through editing processing on the original data, and second derivative data which is generated through editing processing on the first derivative data, by relating the original data, the first derivative data, and the second derivative data, the program comprising the steps of:

generating first link information for linking the original data and the first derivative data and first editing information representing the content of the editing processing on the original data; and

attaching the first link information and the first editing information to the original data and the first derivative data as first accompanying information thereof;

generating second link information for linking the first derivative data and the second derivative data and second editing information representing the content of the editing processing on the first derivative data; and

attaching the second link information and the second editing information to the first derivative data and the second derivative data as second accompanying information thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) A The data management method, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first accompanying information is inseparably attached to each of the original data and the first derivative data, and

the second accompanying information is inseparably attached to each of the first derivative data and the second derivative data.

6. (Currently Amended) A The data management method, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the editing processing includes at least one of: ~~copying for generating the derivative data that have exactly the same content as the original data, processing for obtaining the derivative data by modifying the original data, and image processing on the original data in the case where the original data are image data~~

copying to generate the first derivative data that have exactly the same content as the original data;

copying to generate the second derivative data that have exactly the same content as the first derivative data;

processing to obtain the first derivative data by modifying the original data;

processing to obtain the second derivative data by modifying the first derivative data;

image processing on the original data to generate the first derivative data in the case where the original data are image data; and

image processing on the first derivative data to generate the second derivative data in the case where the first derivative data are image data.

7. (Currently Amended) A The data management method, as defined in Claim 6, wherein the copying processing includes ~~processing for sending the original data from a system in which the original data are stored to another system~~ not only the process for sending the original data from a computer having the original data to another computer, but also the process for sending the first derivative data from a computer having the first derivative data to another computer.

8. (Currently Amended) A The data management method, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the copying processing includes ~~processing not only the process~~ for sending the original data from a computer having the original data to another computer connected to the computer through one of a network and a serial connection, but also the process for sending the first derivative data from a computer having the first derivative data to another computer connected to the computer through one of the network and the serial connection.

9. (Currently Amended) A The data management method, as defined in Claim 8, wherein the network includes one of a LAN and a WAN such as the Internet.

10. (Currently Amended) A The data management method, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the link information is information that enables a user to directly or indirectly refer to either of the original data and the derivative data from the other data

the first link information is information that enables a user to directly or indirectly refer to the original data from the first derivative data and to directly or indirectly refer to the first derivative data from the original data, and

the second link information is information that enables a user to directly or indirectly refer to the first derivative data from the second derivative data and to directly or indirectly refer to the second derivative data from the first derivative data.

11. (Currently Amended) A The data management method, as defined in Claim 10, wherein the link information includes the name of the other data, and wherein the link

~~information further includes at least one of a location of the other data and a pointer indicating the location thereof~~

the first link information attached to the original data includes the name of the first derivative data, and wherein the first link information attached to the original data further includes at least one of a location of the first derivative data and a pointer indicating the location thereof;

the first link information attached to the first derivative data includes the name of the original data, and wherein the first link information attached to the first derivative data further includes at least one of a location of the original data and a pointer indicating the location thereof;

the second link information attached to the first derivative data includes the name of the second derivative data, and wherein the second link information attached to the first derivative data further includes at least one of a location of the second derivative data and a pointer indicating the location thereof; and

the second link information attached to the second derivative data includes the name of the first derivative data, and wherein the second link information attached to the second derivative data further includes at least one of a location of the first derivative data and a pointer indicating the location thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The data management method, as defined in Claim 11, wherein the pointer is the URL of: ~~the derivative data in the case where the derivative data are stored in a Web server~~

the original data in the case where the original data are stored in a Web server;

the first derivative data in the case where the first derivative data are stored in a Web server; and

the second derivative data in the case where the second derivative data are stored in a Web server.

13. (Currently Amended) A The data management method, as defined in Claim 1, wherein

the first accompanying information is attached to each of the original data and the first derivative data by using one of a method of describing the first accompanying information in the header information in each of the original data and the first derivative data, a method of describing the first accompanying information in tag information of each of the original data and the first derivative data if the original data and the first derivative data are image data, and a method of writing the first accompanying information generated according to an XML in a predetermined area of each of the original data and the first derivative data, and

the second accompanying information is attached to each of the first derivative data and the second derivative data by using one of a method of describing the second accompanying information in the header information of each of the first derivative data and the second derivative data, a method of describing the second accompanying information in the tag information of each of the first derivative data and the second derivative data if the first derivative data and the second derivative data are image data, and a method of writing the

second accompanying information generated according to XML in a predetermined area of each of the first derivative data and the second derivative data.

14. (Currently Amended) A The data management method, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the original data and at least two sets of derivative data are managed as a tree structure.

15. (Currently Amended) A The data management method, as defined in Claim 1, ~~wherein the data management method further manages another derivative data which is generated through editing processing on said derivative data derived from the original data, the data management method further comprising the steps of:~~

generating third link information for linking the original data and said ~~another-second~~ derivative data and third editing information representing the content of the editing processing to generate said ~~another-second~~ derivative data from the original data; and

attaching the third link information and the third editing information to the original data and said ~~another-second~~ derivative data as third accompanying information thereof.

Claim 16 (Canceled)